Route 12 - Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701

September 27, 1976

Honorable Walter Fauntroy
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Congressman Fauntroy:

This letter, which I owe you and your colleagues, is not an easy one for me to write. Physically I am limited by a post-phlebitic syndrome following acute thrombophlebitis. Emotionally it is disagreeable to relive a decade of disasters for all of which Mark Lane is responsible in varying degrees and all of which he personally commercialized.

I regard Mark as a great tragedy, for himself and for the country. He is a talented man. I've never known him to be on the wrong side on a question of principle and never to pursue principle for itself alone. I can think of no occasion on which he permits himself to be tainted by truth or honesty, none on which he does not find falsehood superior to truth, even when truth could better serve his purpose. I can and will document all of this for you to the point of nausea if your stomach and what he has already done to you will tolerate it.

Because of the way Mark works, it has not been possible for me to write you earlier. I had to have the proof in hand as it relates to you. I do now, without seeking it.

There are only two exceptions to the general statement that I have done all the real work in opposition to the official mythology about the King assassination. One is Jim Lesar, who has done all the real legal work. The other is Les Payne, minority affairs reporter for Newsday, whom I interested in this and to whom, contrary to Lane's customary fiction, I turned over some work I had already begun. I enclose two of Payne's stories, of January and February. You will see that what has been presented to you as the original work of Mark Lane and Abby Mann is what is customary with Mark. He is a long-time thief.

The basic work is in my book, FRAME-UP, large hunks of which Lane presented as his own original work in his 9/17/76 broadcast on WRC. After the early 1971 printing of FRAME-UP, to the steadfast opposition of virtually all blacks, including the King family and associates and the Black Caucus (with the conspicuous and gratifying exception of Congressman Conyers), I continued my investigations. As a result, there was a successful habeas corpus petition and then an evidentiary hearing.

Contrary to Mark's fiction that I hide all my work and won't share it, I besieged SCLC in New York and Atlanta, without success. I have correspondence with the family and its counsel. I gave copies of my book to all members of the Black Caucus. I made numerous unsuccessful efforts to reach you. I tried to get the Black Caucus members to listen to me and ask questions of me. I got as far as Mr. Dawson's door. I have held press conferences to make newly developed evidence freely available.

Rather than being secretive, I go in the other direction. I am more honestly charged with being overly informative. Some call it paolinity.

Those incapable of real, original work, exemplified by Mark, are also emotionally incapable of facing their investigative incapacities. They therefore satisfy their longings in unethical ways. This is reprehensible enough but the greater damage is from their ignorance combined with their persuasiveness. They deceive those like you who come to depend on them, having no real choice once they lay court to you.

It is they who cannot work with honest people. It has come to the point where those who have done the work and do know and have the fact can't work with them because they are the kind of death.

Unlike most of those who seek and receive attention on the subject of political assassinations, I have a background as a Senate investigator and intelligence analyst. From these professional experiences and the long history of ruin brought by these commercializers and self-seekers, I could see what lay ahead a year and a half ago. I was asked to speak at New York University Law School. Knowing the Congress would depend on us, I tried to persuade these rip-off artists to become responsible. I asked them not to dump off on Members as fact the most terrible nonsense of their invention. I felt the occasion was important enough to take time to prepare a speech. Because I was taken ill, I was not able to edit and correct it, but I can give it to you.

I also used that occasion to give away the results of two FOIA lawsuits so that the people could know. I am without support in these suits which the Lanes that fawn over you pretend is the result of their own derring-do.

I have used the FOI law more than anyone else. One of my current suits, all of which will help your committee, is for the suppressed evidence in the King assassination. Those efforts go back to March of 1969. With the amending of the Act for which I was partly responsible, as the Congressional Record and the conference report show, I was able to file an action. None of those who have been active on the Hill was helpful in any way. It remains a lone effort by Jim Lesar and me. Obviously, I will be making available all I receive. I have already done this when it was within my capabilities.

By April the amount of work required by this litigation forced me to lay aside a new book on the King assassination. It was then two-thirds drafted. I hope for a relief from these legal pressures and to be able to complete that work before long. Unlike the seemingly impressive but terribly wrong stuff you have been fed, you will find that work original and accurate. It will, of course, be available to you. I do not at 63 and in my state of health do all this work in the hope of exploiting it somehow after death.

(Another of these suits will expose Gerald Ford as a latter-day McCarthy, doing the bidding of those who called a civil-libertarian a "nigger-lover" and a Commie. I hope for some court-ordered disclosure soon. If it does not come to pass, I will make public what I have if I can find decent auspices. The third suit, if successful, can blast the whole official mythology about the JFK assassination entirely apart.)

I am saying that I have already completed a major part of your investigation on both assassinations. I am loaded with official evidence I forced out of suppression. However, I am also saying that I will not be part of still another unnecessary great national trauma in which truth is crushed deeper into our grieving earth.

Lee Payne is about to leave for South Africa. I would encourage you to speak with him and learn for yourself not only that you have been deceived by these self-righteous crooks, but have been entirely misdirected by them, that you have already started on a course that can be very hurtful to you personally and thus to the people you serve. Lee's dial-direct number is 516/294-3659. His desk is 294-3133 and 3144. He will tell you that his recent work began with my correct analysis of the FBI's conning of the Church committee in its public confession of Hoover's sins, all but two of which I had already published. Because of my limitations - I was then barely able to walk and am without regular income or support of any kind - I turned fact and leads over to Lee. These leads include Redditt, of whom I wrote in 1969, when I told the story of his being relieved. (He was not part of security for Dr. King. The truth is more shocking. There was no security from the police. He was part of an espionage operation. My belief is that he was relieved because it could be correctly anticipated that at some point he would rebel and because he would have known that the security plan he had devised was ignored.) I cannot exaggerate in praise for what Payne then did. He will also tell you that by the time I was able to travel again he and Newsday made it possible for me to go to Memphis for several days with him to carry this work forward. I think he will tell you that only a minor part of his work, Jim Lesar's and mine has been ripped

off and fed to you in inaccurate form.

I can tell you that it is not necessary to go to Memphis to get copies of the court records, as Mark tells others. Jim and I have almost all of them. Moreover, Jim and I alone exercised discovery on the official records preliminary to the 1974 evidentiary hearing.

I do not like being robbed so regularly by those who, not doing any real work, have the time to steal and misuse. But my greater concern is the misuse and the consequences. I can predict these consequences because I have done this original work. There have been four internal "reinvestigations" of the King case by the Justice Department. Each one coincides in time with a need to counter what I was doing, beginning in 1969. That first effort came to a head in my C.A. 718-70 in which I obtained a summary judgment against Justice and the first of this suppressed King assassination evidence. As a result of these investigations, the Department is now in a position to clobber you if you persist in following the false path already laid out for you by Lane. The thrust of their work has been to prepare against just this kind of wrong approach and irresponsible charges.

Mark's personal record is even worse than that of a common thief and glib deceiver. In about 1969 Dick Gregory arranged for his lecture bureau to book me. I flew to Boston and had a very successful meeting with them. Thereafter, they told me that Lane had claimed he had an exclusive contract with them, notwithstanding that they were also booking Clay Shaw. I then offered to speak on the King assassination only and free to the first Black group that would listen to me. Mark's intimidation of the bureau was so successful they refused even that offer to speak free. As a result, it was impossible for me to take any word to any Black groups. I do have files on this and you can examine them if you doubt my word. The result was the severe limiting of the work I could do on the King assassination. These speaking engagements would have given me some income when I had none.

This is the real Mark Lane, an egomaniacal man, not a man of genuine principle.

What he did with and to Garrison was so dangerous at one point I was compelled to write a book exposing him. Nobody has seen it. He had been responsible for what could have caused a mistrial in the Shaw case. There is nothing he won't say - or hasn't - whenever it appeared to be expedient, whenever he could sell it, as he has for years despite his protestations to the contrary. One of the more extreme illustrations is from his supposed expose of the press in his second book. It is a work of ineffable dishonesty and factual error, another personalization and self-glorification. He blasts BBC for its treatment of him and claims that in return he received "not a farthing." This then was a tenth of a cent. It was true. He did not get a farthing. It was something like $40,000 plus expenses.

Because of interest ~~in the~~ common good, I have long remained silent about these disgusting matters. However, I owe it to the Congress and through it to the people now to take time from what I believe is constructive work to prevent another disaster, another sacrifice on Lane's altar of emotional need.

I realize that you know nothing about me except what you may perhaps have been told if these far-out types perceived the need. There is, however, a very simple way of establishing fact for you. It can be done through anyone on your staff you may trust if your own schedule does not permit the time. It can include Lane, Hunt and the rest of their odd bag of crooks. Particularly the glib Don Freed, whose efforts to steal and misuse my work on the King assassination are abundantly recorded in my files and by witnesses. The more of them in confrontation, the more effective their exposure.

Lane and Freed have earlier collaboration, in the work that, for all practical purposes, is a spook black book, Executive Action. That is, in fact, a plagiarism of a black book by the French CIA, SDECE. Lane shares in the responsibility for foisting it off on Garrison. I broke up the movie version of it, Farewell America, and thus ended another disinformation operation against Garrison, who went for all this kind of miserable stuff.

This simple way of settling fact for you, fact on what I say about Lane personally, fact about his knowledge of fact, is with a tape of his WMDC broadcast. Before writing this, I listened to a tape and made notes on it. We can sit down with this tape and another tape recorder to pick up every word. I'll go over it item by item. You will find that a greater totality of error is impossible. I mean this with respect to the JFK assassination, too. Even Lane's claim about Ruby an FBI informer. It is not as he represents, something the Warren Commission suppressed for ten years. I wrote about it seven or eight years ago, from a copy from the Archives. Yet Mark conned the ACLU into filing a useless suit to obtain what was not withheld.

I don't think Mark will go for any such confrontation before Members or their staffs because he cannot survive it. If he does not, then you have your own means of evaluating him, what he says and what I say.

Mark is a sick man. He has always been driven by these sick compulsions. Thus he had to steal minor items in his first book. In it he also was out to get Earl Warren, regardless of who else was thereby exculpated. To this end he altered the transcripts to make the counsel faceless and nameless. In his second book he even invented footnotes to nonexistent sources to pretend he and he alone did the real work, none of which he ever did. In the course of this, he flaunts an incredible ignorance of the Warren Commission and its files. His sick pursuit of synthetic fame now jeopardizes what the Congress may do. It also jeopardizes the reputations and futures of people like you who have been entranced by his siren song. Between Scylla and Charybdis is no course for you and your colleagues.

It is to save you from this that I offer what will be a distasteful service and the taking of time from my own work. You have been had. If you can get Lane, with or without his fellow scoundrels, to agree to this kind of confrontation, you will still have other dangerous seas ahead. But you will have a chance to pass this first and great danger in safety.

If Markent al. decline this, that I offer to go over that tape and any others for you. You will see that nothing of substance remains and you will see error of stupefying totality. Even the thievery from the one Black reporter who was able to interest his paper, wretched a business as that is, is flawed and flawed in a way that can force your teeth down your throat. Yet the Lane crew has been working at stealing and duplicating this to my knowledge for more than a half-year. They are not even good crooks.

I deeply regret the position in which you and other Members have been put. I see no alternative, in your interest and the nation's, to calling it to your attention and making these offers. I hope you and any of your colleagues who may have the interest will accept them, whether or not Lane does.

Please feel free to give copies of this letter to any of your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg